Hurricane Isabel Incident Action Plan 6:00 AM 9/20/03



Operational Period 6:00 PM - 6:00 AM Emergency Programs Division NCDA&CS

Hurricane Isabel

Team 3 Incident Action Plan and Situation Report September 19, 2003 06:00 PM September 20, 2003 06:00 AM

I. NCDA&CS Incident Plan Overall Objectives

- Provide timely and coordinated response to minimize harm to NC's Agricultural community, Operations and Food Supply, and to facilitate recovery from the effects of Hurricane Isabel.
- Provide for the safety of all assigned incident personnel in the execution of all incident operations.
- Develop close collaboration and coordination with Agriculture industry and interests in North Carolina to identify issues that may arise as a result of the storm.
- Be prepared to respond on a department wide level to support tasks assigned to NCDA&CS through the SERT/ NCEM addressing agricultural interests.
- Maintain a good understanding of the current storm situation and ability to forecast needs based on best current available information.
- Integrate NCDA&CS command structure with outside agencies both public and private to make effective and efficient use of resources available.

II. General Situation

Status of crop and livestock losses

The CRC is coordinating several efforts to ascertain the status of the agriculture interests in the areas directly impacted by the hurricane. The heavily impacted areas have suffered extensive power loss, telephone outages and obstructed transportation infrastructures. Therefore movements, other than by air, are very difficult or impossible. Communication is also difficult, and in some cases, not possible at the present time.

Efforts are currently underway to gain a better appreciation of the impact:

- a. Ed Jones and Dr. George Chambliss are conducting a telephone survey of the county extension agents, the FSA organizations and local contacts to get their impressions of the overall damage to agriculture. So far, contacts have been few due to the telephone outages, so little of substance has been learned as yet.
- b. Conference calls have been held with industry and the CARTs to develop first hand information on the situation.

Preliminary information suggests that the large animal livestock industries have faired reasonably well for such a massive storm. There have been no reports of mortality as yet, and the damage to facilities is less than expected.

Preliminary information on the poultry industry suggests that no serious losses have occurred as yet, however, the power is out and may stay out for some time. Where farmers do not have alternate power, poultry losses will probably grow over the next few days. Operators and processors that have generators can sustain themselves with alternate power for several days, but significant losses are expected in these facilities as well

Crop losses are unknown at this point. Although fly-overs have been done by a livestock and crops expert and the Agriculture Commissioner, ground reports need to be obtained to get an accurate estimate.

The counties that appear to have sustained levels of damage to agriculture that warrants further investigation are:

Currituck Craven Camden Carteret Pasquotank Pamlico Perquimans Beaufort Chowan Dare Gates Hyde Hertford Tvrrell North Hampton Washington Bertie Martin

There is an immediate need to conduct a ground assessment of the impact of the storm on the state's agriculture interests as soon as it is safe to do so.

Information continues to be a challenge.

There are reports of several farm operators asking for generators, however, the number is few compared with past such events because most operators now have backup generator systems or they rented them in advance of the storm.

Status report on operations at the CRC

The Crisis Response Center is now operating under a Level 1 Activation status. The CRC operates under the state Incident Command System (ICS) and is coordinating and collaborating with the divisions of the NCDA&CS, as well as with the State EOC as a component of the NC SERT, and with other departments of state government.

The State Animal Response Team (SART) is also working within the CRC as a private partner to the department in an effort to closely coordinate and collaborate response capabilities. Under this arrangement, the SART is providing command and control for the county CARTs, the establishment and operation of the animal shelters in the impacted areas, animal search and rescue and coordination with the US Humane Society animal response team on standby in North Carolina.

The CRC is being staffed by the Multi-Hazard Task Force members and other employees provided by the divisions to assist with staffing needs. The CRC is operating 24 hours per day with three duty shifts. The CRC operates under the procedures provided in the NCDA&CS Crisis Response Center Operations Manual. Each CRC duty shift is composed of an Incident Commander, an operations, logistics, finance and planning section, staff augmentation as needed, industry representatives (as needed) and the SART.

The main telephone number for the CRC is 919-807-4320, Email intended for the CRC duty staff should be sent to: multi.hazard@ncmail.net

III. Incident Action Plan for Operational Period: 6 AM-6PM, 9-20-03

A. OPERATIONS:

- Task staff in operations to submit 204 forms at end of shift/workday as appropriate and to log in and out appropriately.
- Orient next shift staff to task tracker and have some one designated to document completed tasks from Operations Journal.

Continuing Action Items:

- Conference call with industry need to be conducted continually to brief on power situation and monitor needs
- Food Assessment reports from Food and Drug needs to be monitored.
- Meat and Poultry Reports power outages need to be updated. Unable to contact 4 establishments in Northeastern NC during the previous operational period.
- Maps/databases of eastern counties to allow strategic planning of resources in CRC are tasked to ISS though Logistics: Current request is for water table data as affected by Hurricane Isabel precipitation.
- Coordinate collection of industry information: suggest two daily conference calls (0800 and 1600) involving industry reps to discuss status/needs. Identified needs and questions will be fielded at any time.
- Continue setting up branches to focus on specific areas on 6 specific areas of focus: Field Operations, Search & Rescue, Shelters, Veterinary Services, Mortality/Disposal, and Food Assessment. Develop wall-charting system to facilitate communications with branches.

Field Operations, Jim Tickel:

- When deployed, Assessment teams will report to Dr. Kirkland, Quinn, Huffman or Tickel as assigned. All requests for assistance will need to be routed through county em (EM 2000).
- Industry contacts will be made through usual day-to-day contacts (ie. Kirkland's and Quinn's inspectors and their usual contacts as well as through Jimmy Randolph, industry liaison.

Search & Rescue, Phil Snyder: w/ Humane Society of the United States:

Respond to reports of animals in danger due to Hurricane Isabel and seek appropriate care and shelter.

Shelters. Jodi Jackson/SART/CART:

Sheltering section will contact every county in Eastern Region every six hours.

Veterinary Services: Prepare response to animals in need of Veterinary Services. Dr. Sherri Nutter/CART/SART

Mortality/Disposal, Jimmy Kittrell:

- Gather producer contact information, extension contacts, public health, animal control and animal facility information. Contact information for NCDA & CS has been given to these contacts. Other needed contacts have been gathered, as well as IAP and dead disposal info.
- Plan for expected mortality including possible poultry, swine, and goat mortality in areas hit by high winds or flooding. Also plan for isolated incidents or other injury or mortality due to downed trees, damaged fencing and buildings.
- Develop transportation plan for hauling dead animals to rendering or landfill difficult
- Develop burial alternatives in case of large volumes of water make burial difficult.
- Address question regarding disposal: Should owner county EOC, Extension or proceed directly with burial?
- Assessment teams be organized and deployed beginning Saturday to assess livestock needs such as vital supplies including water, feed, cooling, and processing.

Food Assessment. Don Howell and Steve Wells:

Initiate damage assessments: respond as conditions in area allow.

Resolve the following issues:

- Communicate to Emergency Management Coordinators the necessity for transportation access to impacted areas by feed delivery companies following the storm. Involve EOC liaison to establish this information link with EOC.
- Determine what indemnity may be paid without a federal emergency declaration should there be substantial agricultural losses. (It was decided to not pursue this issue until the storm has past and assessments have been made.)

SART

- Currently formulating a plan to dispatch teams to twelve hardest hit counties beginning 9-20-03 at 9:00am.
- Four teams will deploy from Greenville, NC with personnel and vehicles to locate county shelters without communications, and offer assistance and equipment.
- Teams will utilize county maps illustrating current conditions. NC DOT web site will be utilized to get most updated information.
- Supplies are also being brought to shelters hardest hit by power outages.

B. LOGISTICS:

- Continue to solicit and coordinate NCDA&CS staffing resources for the CRC and Field Staff for primary 0600 to 1800 staffing and reduced staffing 1800 to 0600. Provide supplemental staffing from 1200 to 2000 for at least the next two days.
- Identify and notify a safety officer for 0600 to 1800 each day.
- Continue to track all action requests on NCDA&CS Tracker System and adjust system as needs arise.
- Continue to monitor CRC Main Telephone (807-4320) and the EM2000 Tracker System
- Continue to notify NCEM EOC of number of CRC staff members planning to eat at the EOC: Breakfast (0630) by 0100, Lunch (1200) by 0800, and Dinner (1800) by 1300.
- Contact Rendering Plants, Landfills, and Composters in Northeast North Carolina to determine their status, planned schedule for resuming operation, pick-up and process capacities, and rates.
- Obtain unique industry impact maps for storm path from ISS.
- Coordinate efforts with Safety, Medical Advisor, Operations, and Planning to assure staff is refreshed and alert.
- Update new flow charts for Incident Command Staffing through Sunday.

C. PLANNING:

- Need to worked with ISS to post IAP and Situation Plans on the Emergency Programs web page
- Develop Incident Action Plan for the next operational period.
- Develop Situation Report for the past operational period.
- Continue development of incident safety procedures and identify pertinent web-links for information, workers comp forms, etc.
- Continue development of Incident Communications Plan/Calling Tree protocols.
- Update wall charts detailing current action plans for Operations, Logistics, Planning, and Finance and enlarge posters for CRC.

- Log any suggested revisions/amendments to the EP DIV CRC Operations Manual received or developed during each duty shift
- Continue to monitor TASK TRACKER System for and enter task requests from other Sections into the system
- Continue to develop Q&A's list of frequently asked questions and answers to assist staff answering phones
- Continue development of demobilization procedures and form.

D. FINANCE:

- Purchase expenditures and cumulative employee salaries will be updated.
- Identify and obtain three accounting processing assistants (Time unit leader, Procurement unit leader, Cost unit Leader) for each team. Revised adequately staffed.
- Identify and obtain two administrative staff support for each team Revised adequately staffed.
- Follow up to Divisions to ensure timely reporting is on going.
- EM 2000 licenses have been requested from Emergency Management with David Wray following up to expedite this issue. This is an ongoing issue
- A mission specific scope of work was requested from SART. This issue is being addressed, with first draft complete.